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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the Day of Remembrance of the victims of the Crimean Tatar genocide (see annex).

I would appreciate your having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-08189 (E) 240516

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Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the Day of Remembrance of the victims of the Crimean Tatar genocide

From 18 to 20 May 1944 more than a quarter of a million Crimean Tatars fell victim to Stalin's Union of Soviet Socialist Republics criminal policies. The deportation of Crimean Tatars has become a dark page in world history, a crime of the Soviet system that targeted a series of nations in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Among them were Crimean Tatars, whose children and elderly persons were accused of "treason". But the reality was quite different. In their fight against the Nazis, not only legendary Crimean Tatar servicemen such as Amet-khan Sultan, but also many other Soviet soldiers, Crimean Tatars, fought bravely. Their names are forever enshrined in the glorious pages of the Memory Book of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and World War II warriors.

The pain and suffering of the Crimean Tatars during deportation in 1944 are being repeated 70 years later — during Russia's occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The occupying Power is falling to Stalinist repression against Crimean Tatars and their leaders, bans the Mejlis as the single supreme representative and executive body of Crimean Tatars, carries out illegal searches and politically motivated persecution of activists, and makes groundless accusations of extremism and terrorism against Crimean Tatars.

The Russian Federation, having occupied the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in February 2014, aims to squeeze out of the peninsula anyone who publicly condemns the Kremlin's illegal actions, rejects the forced use of Russian passports and attempts to preserve their language and religious and cultural authenticity. These are the principles predominantly respected by the overwhelming majority of Crimean Tatars. The policies enforced by the Russian occupation authorities have led to the following: since the occupation of Crimea more than 20,000 Crimean Tatars have fled their homes and settled in Ukraine's mainland in search of a better life. The Mejlis was forced to relocate its activities to Kyiv.

Ukraine pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the 1944 Crimean Tatar genocide and calls upon the international community to continue to bring political and diplomatic pressure to bear on the Russian occupation authorities to avoid any repetition of the 1944 tragedy, to cease immediately violations of fundamental human rights in Crimea and, eventually, to de-occupy the peninsula and restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

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Seventieth session
Agenda items 44 and 79 (a)

Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 23 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Turkey dated 28 April 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/855-S/2016/406, 2 May 2016), I have the honour to state the following:

The aforementioned letter contains unsubstantiated, unfounded and abusive allegations that totally disregard the sovereign rights of other States, including Greece, in the maritime area of Eastern Mediterranean west of meridian 32° 16′ 18″ E. Such allegations go well beyond the rules of international law, by denying the entitlement of Greek islands to maritime zones, contrary to international law of the sea.

Greece wishes to reiterate that it has *ipso facto* and *ab initio* sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the above area on the basis of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, customary international law, as well as of its national legislation. This position has been registered on numerous occasions with the United Nations (notes verbales dated 24.2.2005, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin, vol. 57, p. 129*; No. 974/8.5.2012, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin, vol. 79, p. 14*; and No. 389/20.2.2013, see *Law of the Sea Bulletin, vol. 81, p. 23*), and has also been communicated bilaterally to Turkey (notes verbales No. 187/AS 2207/24.7.2009, No. 187/AS 2648/15.11.2011, No. 187/1066/30.4.2012 and No. 156.3/1675/12.7.2012).

Furthermore, the Turkish allegation referring to the delimitation agreements in the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea is totally misleading and arbitrary, as it aims at interfering with the rights of Greece to effect delimitation of its maritime areas by agreement with third States on the basis of international law, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of third States. Greece's firm policy is to settle any outstanding issue with its neighbours in good faith and in accordance with international law.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 1 June 2016.

16-08448* (E) 020616

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Greece, therefore, refutes in their entirety the Turkish allegations contained in the above letter, also expressed in the Turkish note verbale dated 12 March 2013, and calls upon the Government of Turkey to respect the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of all the States in the said maritime area in accordance with international law.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 44 and 79 (a) and of the Security Council, and published in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(*Signed*) Catherine **Boura**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/70/901–S/2016/470

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 23 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 19 May 2016, concerning the murder committed in the village of Khurcha, Zugdidi District, on 19 May 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha Imnadze
Permanent Representative

16-08436 (E) 310516

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Annex to the identical letters dated 23 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the murder committed in the village of Khurcha, Zugdidi District, on 19 May 2016

Tbilisi, 19 May 2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is deeply concerned by the murder committed in the village of Khurcha, Zugdidi District, and expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family and relatives of the victim, Giga Otkhozoria. This criminal act once again demonstrates the highly alarming situation in the occupied region of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the full responsibility for it lies with the Russian Federation exercising effective control over the region. This criminal act reconfirms the need to establish international security mechanisms in the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia immediately informed the European Union monitoring mission and the Co-Chairs of the Geneva international discussions representing the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and requested their due reaction. In addition, the Head of the Georgian delegation to the Geneva international discussions, David Dondua, has had a telephone conversation with the Head of the Russian delegation.

The Georgian side will apply all existing international mechanisms to ensure both political and legal responses and to bring to justice those responsible for the crime.